THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Delhi Transport Corporation provides free travel facility to the handicapped persons on all city and sub-urban routes within the Union Territory of Delhi except in Indira Gandhi International Airport Coach and Tourist Services. D.T.C. is also giving 50 per cent concession in fares to an attendant accompanying a blind person.

According to the information received the State Road Transport in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu Govt. have extended free or concessional travel facility to the handicapped including blind persons in the buses.

(b) Handicapped persons in Delhi are required to get identity card, certtfying the disability, issued in their favour by the District Magistrate, Delhi. On the production of such identity card, a free travel pass is issued to the handicapped persons by the DTC Pass Office. As regards other State Roadways the procedure is laid down by the respective Managements and differ from State to State.

Telephone Exchange in Kottayam in Kerala

976. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ettumanur telephone exchange in Kottayam district of Kerala has been developed recently;

(b) whether S.T.D. facility is likely to be extended to this exchange and whether it is a fact that STD cable is passing through Ettumanur;

(c) What is the present capacity of the exchange and the number of applicants in the waiting list; and

(d) by when this exchange is likely to come under STD network and reasons for delay, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (c) No Sir, not yet completed. The present capacity of the exchange is 480 lines. The number of applicants on the waiting list is 481.

(b) and (d) STD facility is planned for this exchange during 8th plan period and it is a fact that cable is passing without dropping facility. Automatisation of the exchange and availability of stable transmission media are pre-requisite for the provision of the STD facility. Hence there is no delay.

Movies telecast/to be telecast on T.V.

977. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Hindi, Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam movies shown on Doordarshanin 1989; and

(b) which are the Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu movies scheduled or selected to be shown in 1990 in Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) During 1989, 71 Hindi, 7 Telugu, 8 Tamil and 8 Malayalam feature films were telecast on the national network.

(b) A number of featuee films in Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu have been offered to Doordarshan for telecast. Decision to telecast them is taken only after receipt of a good quality print and satisfactory review report. Therefore, at this stage, it is not possible to indicate which are the films that will be telecast during 1990.

Cochin-Madurai National Highway

978. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for the construction of Cochin-Madurai National Highway; and

(b) by when the construction work of the project is likely to commence and what will be the route of the highway?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) The road connecting Madurai in Tamil Nadu with Cochin in Kerala via Teni-Munner-ruuvattupuzha was declared as National Highway No. 49 in February, 1989. Condition Surveys have undertaken which is essential before any development work can be considered.

Regional language programme 'Chitramala'

979. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that regional language programme 'Chiramala' is shown only once in two weeks while Hindi counterpart of this programme 'Chitrahaar' is shown four times in two weeks;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the frequency of the telecast 'Chitramala' as more than 60 percent of the population are non-Hindi speaking; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) The 'Chitramala' programme is telecast on the national network on a fortnightly basis. But, 'Chitrahaar' programme is not telecast on the national network four time in two weeks. The 'Chitrahaar' on Wednesday is telecast on the national network, and the programme on Friday is telcst on Delhi and its linked transmetters.

(b) & (c) Within the limitations of transmission time, the question of increase in the frequency of Chitramala programme will be considered.

Use of English translation of Hindi words on Doordarshan

980. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that while doing English accouncements on Doordarshan, translation of Hindi words are not shown on the screen; and

(b) whether Government is likely to issue instructions to use English translation of Hindi words so as to make Hindi programme understandable ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING